



EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1/30/07
HB 374

PO Box 201800 • Helena, Montana 59620-1800 • 406-444-3115
FAX: 406-444-0266 • <http://msl.state.mt.us>

January 29, 2007

To: Representative Julie French
Senator Sam Kitzenberg
Lois Fitzpatrick, Montana Library Association

From: Darlene Staffeldt
State Librarian

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "DME", written over the printed name "Darlene Staffeldt".

Bob Cooper
Director of Library Development

Re: Montana library construction needs

Please find attached some details from our recent survey of Montana Public Library Directors regarding their library building needs.

In summary please know that we did a quick survey. The survey was an e-mail survey, we asked eight questions requesting mainly numbers and percentages - request for estimates only of non-researched assessment of needs

Purpose of survey: Collect best guess preliminary information regarding extent of public library construction needs in Montana in response to request for information from Representative Julie French and Senator Sam Kitzenberg

Survey response window: 1/4/07 through 1/18/07

Respondents: 44 of 80 main public libraries

Major Construction projects (over \$50,000) anticipated: 39

Anticipated construction projects to resolve ADA compliance issues: 20

Average age of public library buildings reported by survey respondents: 49 years

Total best guess cost estimates reported by survey respondents: \$50,918,000

Average best guess project cost estimate reported by survey respondents:
\$2,545,900

Public Library Construction Needs Survey 1/18/07 - Montana State Library

Excerpts from description of needs provided by responding libraries:

Big Horn County Library, Hardin:

There is a strong likelihood that the foundation of the 1917 building will need major work. It is also likely that an energy efficiency update of the windows of the 1917 building will be necessary. The paired buildings will need a boiler refit within the next two years.

Bridger Public Library, Carbon County:

100% of remodeling costs are associated with ADA because we are completely out of compliance. The only way for us to become compliant is by constructing an addition.

Red Lodge Carnegie Library, Carbon County:

Our library, while it barely manages to comply with ADA accessibility, is not user friendly to persons in wheelchairs or who have difficulty with stairs. A big hairy goal of the library board and director is to install a proper elevator or determine a new solution for accessibility.

Choteau County Library, Ft. Benton:

All three of these branches – including the one in Fort Benton are located in rural, middle to low income, farm depressed communities. Since becoming Library Director almost 5 years ago, I have seen a significant increase in usage at our three operating branches. Most of our patrons have no home computer. Most of our patrons live 50 miles or more from a book store. Many of our patrons are elderly and demand audios and large print books and materials. Providing what they need in an easily accessible venue with room to grow is a huge concern of mine, my staff and my Board of Directors. These libraries are vital to their communities. Period. I would love to construct a new building at Big Sandy and one to accommodate the large percentage of our patrons from Highwood. I would love to add on to provide a meeting room in Geraldine too. There is just no money available.

Miles City Public Library, Custer County:

The existing building needs to be replaced or remodeled. We are in the construction phase of remodeling the entryway right now to alleviate the flooding problems.

Belgrade Community Library, Gallatin County:

With the growth of Belgrade and so many demands on basic city services, it is a highly competitive market for tax dollars. Fire and police issues will outrank priority for the library. This will be a challenge. At this point the City will not consider additional mills for the library.

Garfield County Library, Jordan:

Our library is in the old Jordan School building. There are holes in the roof, holes in outside walls, inefficient windows. Because of the holes, we have a rather large colony of mice and even rats, which eat through walls, into wooded cabinets about the possibility of stored and on display for public use. We have serious concerns about the possibility of damage to wiring and subsequent fire risk. Wiring cannot be inspected and maintained as it is run through the basement and that has been closed off due to asbestos. The floor is shifting, buckling and vibrates so much when the heating system comes on that cracks in windows expand, some glass is falling out. We do not have handicap access from the parking lot into the building; the handicap ramp is on the opposite side of the building from the parking lot and is actually attached to the emergency exit, it opens to a playground and park with NO parking access. Anyone who cannot manage the stairs into the building has to walk around to the other side of the building, which means a trip of over 100 yards, a real chore for the handicapped. We have concerns that the rodent infestation is a hazard for anyone with a less than sterling immune system, which means our elderly and very young patrons might be at particular risk. Staff is not happy with having to remove rodent feces from desks and book shelves daily. There is no cooling system at all. Heating system is barely adequate. Building leaks like a sieve. Windows are inefficient. There is no double door entry to the outside to cut air loss. Holes and crumbling areas in the outside stucco make it unwise to invest in any cooling/heating system updates

Jefferson County Library System:

The Clancy library is housed in the section of the old Clancy school that was originally constructed in 1898. Clancy Library is currently renting two rooms from the local elementary school; however we are in need of our own building.

Lincoln County Public Library, Libby:

At this point all three of these (main library in Libby and Eureka and Troy branches) will be new construction. I have to believe that we can do all of these, but it will be a very tough row to hoe and possible state funding would be greatly needed. The Libby library still has the original furnaces from the 60's which rattles and shakes my office every time it fires up. I do not have great confidence that it will last too many more years.

Ideally all three libraries need at least an addition, especially in Troy and Eureka. Populations have increased significantly since the libraries have been remodeled on the interior with new shelving which did increase capacity. But as it stands, there is not where else to go with the present structures. The Libby building has an extremely poor layout for a library. No electrical or heating systems updates have ever been made. Neither of which are adequate for today's use. We have few outlets and have maxed out our electrical capabilities which becomes a

challenge with the ever increasing use of computers. Once again in the ideal world, I would like to see a branch or some version of a branch go into the Yaak area. We have an ever increasing population in this area who often only visit town once a month at the most. When they do visit, they use our facilities, but have often expressed a desire for more.

Meagher County-City Library, White Sulphur Springs:

Our building needs to be replaced at a new location. The back portion of our building has been condemned and is unopened to the public. The floor is sinking due to low water tables/unstable soils. Up front engineering costs to do a preliminary assessment of our sinking backroom are \$ 90,000. This assessment would only determine if the problem could or could not be fixed. We have concluded that remodel is out of the question. We have outgrown our current space.

Just last year Meagher County was identified in the Economist magazine as the poorest county in the nation. We compete each year with other county entities for our library funding. We have wonderful patron support in terms of library usage and book donations but cash donations to the library fall way short of what is needed.

Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton, Ravalli County:

Major remodel needed for a children's and teens' areas, a larger and better-equipped community meeting room, more public access computers, staff offices/work areas, improve ADA access, A/C, new telephone system and a delivery/mail workspace.

Richland County Library, Sidney:

With oil activity here, people think we have a lot of money....not necessarily so. The oil has impacted so many services that the county is paying funds out to fix and maintain. The County is working on a major improvement plan for county buildings....library is at the bottom. ADA compliance is one of the big reasons we need more space. And new design of library for social networking---back to a place for people to meet as a community---do not have a story time space or the ability to meet children's' needs.

Parmly Billings Library, Yellowstone County:

The Library operates out of single main facility located at 510 North Broadway, which was constructed in 1955 to serve as a hardware warehouse, so it is approximately 52 years old. It was renovated to serve as the Billings Public Library in 1969, so has served as a library for approximately 38 years. The City of Billings Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes a major renovation and expansion project for the Main Library in 2012 but the Library could be required to undertake minor, or even major renovation, in the event that the roof failure worsens, the Library boiler fails, one of the three original elevators fails, or the growing load on the electrical systems requires significant repair or replacement.

Estimated needs only 44 Responses from 80 public libraries

Public Library Construction Needs

Library	County	Age of Buildings	Upgrade	Major (\$50,000+) Remodel/Replacement Needed	Minor (<\$50,000) Remodel Needed	New Branches Needed	Local Support	% of projects related to ADA Compliance	Building system upgrades needed	Total Cost Estimates
Big Horn County Public Library, Hardin	Big Horn County	1917 - 90 years	1988	1	1	0	100%	0%	100%	\$ 50,000 - 75,000
Broadwater Sch & Community Lib, Townsend	Broadwater County	1995 - 12 years		1	1	0		0%	0%	\$ 500,000
Bridger Public Library	Carbon County	1912 - 90 years	1982	1	1	0	30%	100%	20%	\$ 5 - 10%
Red Lodge Carnegie Library	Carbon County	1920 -		1	0	0	80%	10%	10%	\$ 5.15 million
Great Falls Public Library	Cascade County	1968 - 39 years	Yes	1	0	0	25%	50%	10%	\$275,000
Wedworth Memorial Library, Cascade	Cascade County	1917 - 90 years	1994, 2001	2	0	1	25%	100%	50%	Over \$ 50,000
Chouteau County Library, Fort Benton	Chouteau County	1902 - 104 years	1	1	0	0	10%	0%	2	\$30,000
Miles City Public Library	Custer County	1977 - 30 years		1	1	0	0%	0%	0%	\$ 40,000 - 50,000
Daniels Public Library	Daniels County	1957 - 1927		1	0	0	20%	0%	0%	\$ 20 million +
Dawson County Library, Baker	Dawson County	1969 - 38 years		1	0	0	0%	0%	100%	
Fallon County Library, Baker	Fallon County	1917, 1982, 1940, 1988, 1988		3	0	1	0%	0%	0%	
Flathead County Library, Kalispell	Flathead County	1990 - 17 years	2000, 2004	1	1	0	100%	0%	30%	\$ 60,000 - 90,000
Belgrade Community Library	Gallatin County	2006		0	1	0	less than 50%	40%	50%	\$100,000
Bozeman Public Library	Gallatin County	1997		1	0	0	0%	0%	25%	
Manhattan Community Library	Gallatin County	1957 - 50 years		1	0	0	\$10,000	0%	0%	
Three Forks Community Library	Gallatin County	1932 - 75 years		1	0	0	50 - 60%	0%	100%	
Garfield County Library, Jordan	Garfield County	1957 - 50 years		1	1	0	50 - 60%	0%	0%	
Glacier County Library, Cut Bank	Glacier County	1951 - 56 years	1987	0	1	0	50 - 60%	0%	0%	
Havre-Hill County Library	Hill County	1992 - 13 years	Contract	1	0	0	50 - 60%	0%	100%	
Boulder Community Library	Jefferson County	1998 - 109 years	2003	1	0	0	50 - 60%	0%	0%	
Clancy Community Library	Jefferson County	1982 - 25 years	2001	0	0	0	35 - 50%	20%	20%	\$ 150,000 +
Whitetail Community Library	Lake County	1989 - 18 years		1	3	1	25%	100%	100%	\$600,000
Ronan City Library	Lincoln County	1964, 1970, 1984	1986	1	1	0	0 - 60%	60%	40%	
Polson City Library	Lincoln County	1900's-est. 207 yrs		1	0	0	100%	100%	0%	\$400,000
Madison Valley Public Library, Ennis	Madison County	1919 - 88 years		1	1	0	10%	20%	20%	\$ 750,000 - 1 million
Thompson-Hickman County Lib, Virginia City	Madison County	1907 - 90-100 yrs	1	1	0	0	10%	0%	0%	
Twin Bridges Public Library	Madison County	1979 - 28 years		0	0	0	10%	0%	30%	\$2,000
Meagher County/City Lib, Wt Suphur Springs	Meagher County	1941, 1909, Move underway		1	1	3 - 5	45 - 50%	100%	0%	\$45,000
Mineral County Public Library, Superior	Mineral County	1977 - 30 years	Contract	0	1	1	0 - 25%	0%	0%	\$1,000
Missoula Public Library	Missoula County	1975 - 32 years	1979, 2005	0	1	2	40 - 50%	20%	0%	\$160,000
Roundup School-Community Library	Musselshell County	1905 - 102 years		0	1	0	35%	10%	75%	
Livingston-Park County Public Library	Park County	2548 square feet		0	1	0	0%	50%	30%	\$ 1 million +
Petroleum County Sch-Community Lib, Winnett	Petroleum County	1969 - 38 years		1	1	0	50%	0%	0%	
Valley Public Library	Pondera County	1904 - 103 years	1996	0	1	0	0%	0%	0%	
William K. Kohrs Memorial Lib, Deer Lodge	Powell County	1912 - 95 years	1987	1	0	2	0%	0%	0%	
Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton	Ravalli County	2.5 years		0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	
Darby Community Public Library	Ravalli County	1966 - 41 years	1986	1	1	0	50%	0%	0%	
Richland County Library, Sidney	Richland County	1997 - 10 years		0	1	0	10%	0%	0%	
Preston Town County Library, Hot Springs	Sanders County	1982 - 25 years		0	1	0	10%	0%	0%	
Sheridan County Library, Plentywood	Sheridan County	1913 - 94 years	2006	0	0	0	10%	0%	0%	
Carnegie Public Library, Big Timber	Sweet Grass County	1990 - 17 years		0	1	1	0%	0%	0%	
Laurel Public Library	Yellowstone County	1955 - 52 years		1	1	1	0%	0%	0%	\$20,755,761
Parmly Billings Library	Yellowstone County			1	1	1	0%	0%	0%	